



## Capitol Hill Students Studying Taekwondo

Master Patricia Gutman (center) has been teaching Capitol Hill's children Taekwondo for over 20 years. Recently, several of her students advanced and earned new belts for their hard work. Many of Master Gutman's students attend Capitol Hill schools, such as Brent, Maury and Two Rivers elementary schools. Photo: Angie Lundberg.

BY MARY-FRANCES DALY

## Boogie Babes at Sova Espresso

Grab your little one and boogie on down to Sova Espresso to see Mr. Don, Mr. Skip and Oh Susannah! this month. The Boogie Babes show schedule for October is as follows: Oct. 5, Mr. Don; Oct. 15, Groovy Nate; Oct. 19, Mr. Skip; Oct. 30, Oh Susannah! All shows start at 10:30 a.m. Sova Espresso is located at 1359 H St. NE. \$5/child (cash only, pay at the door). Check website for updates: [www.boogiebabes.com](http://www.boogiebabes.com).

## The Family Room Schedule for October

The Family Room, located at 411 Eighth St. SE, has the following schedule for October. The calendar is subject to change, so please call to confirm dates. Visit the website for detailed class descriptions.

- Friday night movie: "Jimmy Neutron, Boy Genius," Oct. 9, 6:30 p.m.
- Extra special Story Time with Mr. Tony on October 11, 3:30 p.m. Free for members or with paid admission.
- Five-week hypno-birthing session begins Oct. 14, and runs Wednesdays through Nov. 11 at 7 p.m. Visit [www.mindbodybirths.com](http://www.mindbodybirths.com) to learn more.
- Friday night movie: "The Little Mermaid," Oct. 16, 6:30 p.m.
- Kindermusik Sign and Sing, for parents with hearing children

ages 6 months to 3 years. Classes offered Wednesdays or Saturdays. The five-week Saturday class begins Oct. 17; the five-week Wednesday class begins Oct. 21.

- Friday night movie: "Shark Tale," Oct. 23, 6:30 p.m.
- Tiny Fingers workshop, Oct. 24, 10:30-11:15. Teach your baby sign language. Come learn how

2:30-2:45 p.m.; French for 3's, 4's and 5's, Tuesdays, 3:30-4:15 p.m.; Spanish for 3's, 4's and 5's, Tuesdays, 4:30-5:15 p.m. French story time, Thursdays, 2-2:15 p.m.

- Music for infants, Tuesdays, noon-12:30 p.m.; music for 1's and 2's, Wednesdays, 10-10:30 a.m.

Please call 202-640-2855 for the

and Roll Hotel is transformed into a child-proof disco as children and parents let loose to disco tunes spun by disc jockeys. Appropriate for children ages 6 months to 7 years. Tickets are available in advance at [www.babylovesdisco.com](http://www.babylovesdisco.com). \$12/advance; \$15/at the door; free/non-walking babies. 1353 H St. NE.

## Columbus Day Lacrosse Clinic on Capitol Hill

Sticks Lacrosse and Director Malcolm Lester – Hill dad and head lacrosse coach at St. Albans – is offering a lacrosse clinic at Kingsman Field (13th and D streets NE) on Columbus Day, Oct. 12. The clinic is open to boys and girls ages 5-12; campers may sign up for a full day (9 a.m. to 3 p.m.) or a half-day (9 a.m. to noon or noon to 3 p.m.). No experience is necessary, and sticks will be provided for those who need them. The clinic will feature instruction, contests, lacrosse giveaways, games and plenty of fun. \$55/full day; \$30/half day. For more information, contact Coach Lester at [mlester@cathedral.org](mailto:mlester@cathedral.org) or 202-537-5703. Applications may be downloaded at [www.stickslacrosse.com](http://www.stickslacrosse.com).

## DC Neighborhood Library Schedule Northeast Library

Trading card game play, Oct. 5, 5:30-6:30 p.m., ages 12-19. Teen Advisory Group, Oct. 7, 5:30-6:30 p.m. Story and craft, Oct. 10, 10:30 a.m. Teen movie night, Oct. 14, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Story and puppet, Oct. 17, 10:30



Kids get into the groove at a September Boogie Babes event at Sova Espresso.

at a Tiny Fingers Workshop. Go to [TinyFingers.com](http://TinyFingers.com) for more info and to sign up.

- Halloween Movie Night, Oct. 30, 6:30 p.m. "It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown" and "The Fat Albert Halloween Special" runs that evening with pizza and drop-off babysitting options.
- Spanish story time, Tuesdays,

most up-to-date information. Check out [www.thefamilyroomdc.com](http://www.thefamilyroomdc.com) for pricing and more details.

## Baby Loves 'Boo' Disco

Baby Loves Disco puts the "boo" in October with this month's BLD "Boo Baby Boo" on Oct. 10, noon-3 p.m., at the Rock and Roll Hotel. The Rock



a.m. SF/fantasy book discussion, Oct. 19, 5:30-6:30 p.m., ages 12-19. Teen read week gaming night, Oct. 21, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Origami Club, Oct. 22, 5:30-6:30 p.m., ages 6-12. Story time, Oct. 24, 10:30 a.m. Crafty teens, Oct. 26, 5:30-6:30 p.m. Boo! tales and treats, Oct. 30, 3 p.m., costumes not required. Toddler times, Tue and Thu, 11:15 a.m., ages 2-5. Storytime for ages 3-7, Mondays, 4 p.m. 330 Seventh St. NE. 202-698-3320, [www.dclibrary.org](http://www.dclibrary.org).

#### Southeast Library

Teddy Bear Tea, Oct. 26, 10 a.m.-noon, infants to preschoolers, bring a favorite stuffed toy. Pumpkin carving, Oct. 29, 4-6 p.m., all ages. Preschool story time Wednesdays, 10-10:30 a.m. Infant/toddler story time for ages 3 and under, Wednesdays, 11-11:30 a.m. Tales for 2's and 3's Fridays, 10-10:30 a.m. 403 Seventh St. SE. 202-698-3377, [www.dclibrary.org](http://www.dclibrary.org).

#### Southwest Library

Halloween party, Oct. 28, 6 p.m., all ages, please dress in costume for goodies and Halloween stories. Story time fun with the librarian for toddlers, Tue and Thu, 10:30 a.m. 900 Wesley Place SW. 202-724-4752, [www.dclibrary.org](http://www.dclibrary.org).

#### Exceptional Schools Fair at AU

On Oct. 18, join the Exceptional Schools Groups for a School Fair showcasing private and non-public schools for students with learning differences. It will be held from 2 to 5 p.m. in the Katzen Center at American University. Free parking is available in the center. For more information, contact Bekah Atkinson at 301-592-0567, ext. 12, [batkinson@thesienaschool.org](mailto:batkinson@thesienaschool.org); or Lois McCabe at 301-299-4602, [lois@thedienschool.org](mailto:lois@thedienschool.org).

#### Fort Dupont Ice Arena Columbus Day Free Lessons and Public Skate

Head over to Fort Dupont Ice Arena for family fun on Columbus Day, Oct. 12. Offerings include 15-minute learn-to-skate classes run-

ning from 10:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. Skaters will be put in classes on a first-come, first served basis; rental skates are included; practice time provided after each lesson; and loaner helmets are available. Open to ages 5 and up. Lessons are free. Then stay for Columbus Day public skate, which runs from noon to 1:50 p.m. Public skate prices are as follows: \$4/children 12 and under; \$5/ages 13 and older; \$4/senior citizens 65 years and up; \$3/skate rental. 3779 Ely Place SE. 202-584-5007, [www.fdia.org](http://www.fdia.org).

#### Second Annual Kids Euro Festival: No Passport Required

The Kids Euro Festival – a celebration of European arts and culture for kids – returns to Washington, DC, Oct. 15 to Nov. 10 with more than 150 free events in and around the city. The festival, designed for children ages 4-12, features talented European children's entertainers from almost every performance genre – opera for children, improvisational storytelling, puppetry, dance, and acrobatics, to name a few. Free public performances will take place at various venues, including the Kennedy Center, Shakespeare Theatre, Strathmore Mansion, Atlas Performing Arts Center, National Geographic, THEARC, Imagination Stage, Discovery Theatre, the Library of Congress, National Children's Museum, the National Gallery of Art, Washington Ballet, The Goethe-Institut, House of Sweden, The Austrian Forum and La Maison Française. Screenings of European children's films and reading workshops presenting favorite European children's stories will round out a month of diverse and imaginative cultural journeys. Some performances require reservations, which can be made at the Kids Euro Festival website: [www.kidseurofestival.org](http://www.kidseurofestival.org). Call for more information, 202-944-6558.

#### Fall II Classes Begin Soon at Zombie Village at First District Station

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Hill! The Metropolitan Police Department First District police officers are creating “Zombie Village” Oct. 30 and 31, 6-10 p.m., and this year’s haunted house promises to be even scarier than last year’s. Note: The haunted house is recommended for ages 13 and above and is specifically not recommended for children who believe in holiday characters. Free. 101 M St. SW. Call 202-729-3454 or 202-729-3714 for more information.

Each session includes varied activities which may include a story, art activity or walk in the garden. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Free. Pre-registration required. 100 Maryland Ave. SW. 202-225-1116, www.usbg.gov.

### HallowFest

Start your Halloween celebration at the US Botanic Garden’s Conservatory East Gallery, Oct. 31, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Decorate a pumpkin, attend a

special – face painting at 11 a.m., and treats for the children. Ripley Center. www.discoverytheater.org.

### Fort Dupont Ice Arena Halloween Spooktacular

Head to Fort Dupont Ice Arena for spooky fun at this year’s Halloween Spooktacular public skate and costume contest, Oct. 31, 4:30-5:50 p.m. Prizes will be given for the best costumes, and FDIA is a safe place for children to trick or treat. For safety’s

stories, games, art, music, experiments, drama and movement. Limit two children per adult; all non-infant children with an adult must pay and must participate; additional siblings not permitted. \$10/child. Pre-registration and advance payment (by check or credit card only) is required by the Friday prior. 202-675-4120 or RSVP@ncm.museum to register.

### Witches, Wizards and Wands.

Oct. 9, 16, 23, 30, 3-5 p.m. Children ages 12 and under are invited to enter an imaginary world of witches, wizards and magic wands, where they can make cool props to “turn” themselves into magical people. Free.

### The Marine Corps Marathon Healthy Kids Fun Run.

Oct. 24, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. For the fifth consecutive year, NCM will provide hands-on activities for children in Camp Miles at the Marine Corps Marathon Healthy Kids Fun Run. NCM will present programming that parallels the Healthy Fun Run’s mission to encourage children to make healthy choices and live an active lifestyle.

112 Waterfront St.,  
National Harbor, Md.  
301-686-0225,  
www.ncm.museum.



This year’s Halloween is October 30th st 5:30pm - 7:30pm outside Eastern Market Seventh Street SE.

### CHAW

The Capitol Hill Arts Workshop offers a full range of classes in music and movement for children ages infant to 5 in its early childhood classes, and registration opens Oct. 9 for CHAW’s fall II session, which runs Nov. 9-Dec. 19. Log on to www.chaw.org and check out the schedule of classes for children and adults alike at CHAW. Financial aid and payment plans available. 545 Seventh St. SE. Call 202-547-6839 for more information.

### Sprouts Fall 2009

Bring your preschooler (ages 3-5) to the US Botanic Garden for plant-related fun in the Sprouts program, which runs every Wednesday, Oct. 7, 14, 21 & 28, 10:30-11:30 a.m., in the USBG Conservatory Classroom.

monster meal cooking demonstration, or create a creepy craft. Young and young-at-heart are invited to participate in the costume parade at noon. Prizes will be given for best plant outfit, best costume – adult, and best costume – child. Free. No pre-registration required. 100 Maryland Ave. SW. 202-225-1116, www.usbg.gov.

### A ‘Not So Spooky’ Halloween Show at Discovery Theater

Discovery Theater loves Halloween so much, it’s doing two shows in one! Go batty with the puppet play “Why the Bat Flies at Night,” a creation tale from Africa. And come in costume to help tell the interactive story, “The Ghosties’ Happy Day.” Shows are for ages 2-7 and run Oct. 29 at 10:15 a.m.; Oct. 30 at 10:15 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.; and Oct. 31 at noon with a family

sake, children cannot wear anything that blocks their vision (no masks), and no costume can drag on the floor. \$4/children 12 and under; \$5/ages 13 and older; \$4/senior citizens 65 years and up; \$3/skate rental. 3779 Ely Place SE. 202-584-5007, www.fdia.org.

### Children’s Programs at NCM

The National Children’s Museum will host the following activities for children in October at the National Harbor’s Launch Zone.

### Wee Wonders’ Sense-ational!

Oct. 6, 13, 20, 10-11:15 a.m. Children (ages 2-3 with a parent/caregiver) will begin to understand how their bodies work by investigating their five fabulous senses – smells, textures, sounds, sights and tastes (call ahead with food allergies). Activities typically include

### We Hear Singing Crickets at GALA Theatre

Cri-Cri: El Grillo Cantor, “The Singing Cricket,” will be at the GALA Theatre Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24, at 3 p.m. Cri-Cri brings new songs and characters that will have children jumping on stage to interact with the artists, and parents will enjoy the songs of their childhood. Call for pricing. 3333 14th St. NW. 202-234-7174, www.galatheatre.org.

### Pumpkin Patches and Fall Festivals

The following is a sampling of local pumpkin patches and fall festivals:

### 14th Annual Fort Belvoir Oktoberfest

Located off Route 1 in Fairfax County, Virginia, this annual Oktoberfest runs through Oct. 4. The festi-

val is open to the general public and includes authentic German food and beer, carnival rides, live entertainment, kids activities and more. 703-805-FEST, [www.belvoirmwr.com](http://www.belvoirmwr.com).

### Annual Autumn Conservation Festival

Learn about endangered species conservation programs underway at the National Zoo's 3,200-acre facility in the Shenandoah Valley Oct. 3 and 4, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., the only time the center is open to the public. The festival features guided tours of the veterinary hospital and endangered species breeding facilities, live music, hayrides, food and more. \$30 per car (up to six people). Held at the Conservation and Research Center, 1500 Remount Road, Front Royal, Va. 202-633-3068, [www.fonz.org/crctour.htm](http://www.fonz.org/crctour.htm).

### Maryland Renaissance Festival

Performers from across North America entertain on the festival's many stages while the streets and woods are filled with characters to amuse and delight. See a fire-eater, watch authentic jousting in full armor, listen to music and choral groups, and thrill at jugglers and magicians. Shops displaying the finest crafts and works of art invite you to see their wares. Stained glass, sculptures, original jewelry, pottery, wood-butchery, leather-work, inlay, clothing, glass-blowing, original prints and soft sculpture are but some of the artistry displayed. Ongoing each weekend through Oct. 25. All ages. Adults \$18; seniors \$15; children (7-15) \$8; (under 7) free; two-day pass \$28. [www.rennfest.com](http://www.rennfest.com).

### Boo At The Zoo

Don your costume and head over to Boo at the Zoo – the wildest trick-or-treat in town – Oct. 23-25, 5:30-8:30 p.m. Tasty candy, delicious snack foods, and other special treats from more

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#### Butler's Orchard Pumpkin Festival

Butler's hosts its 29th annual Pumpkin Festival every Saturday and Sunday in October and Columbus Day from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Enjoy the fall colors on a hayride, wind through the straw maze, jump in the hayloft, meet some new barnyard buddies, and explore pumpkin-land. Live music on weekends, noon to 4 p.m. And for a small fee, children can enjoy pumpkin cannon, pony rides, face painting and crafts. \$10/person; free/children under age 2. Food is available at the festival for purchase. 22200 Davis Mill Road, Germantown, Md. 301-972-3299, [www.butlersorchard.com](http://www.butlersorchard.com).

#### Cox Farms Fall Festival

One of the area's most popular fall festivals runs through Nov. 8, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. Admission includes slides, farm animal petting zoos, rope swings, tunnels, live entertainment, fairytale castle slide, treetops slide, pick-a-pumpkin patch, cider, apples and more. Pizza, hot dogs, apples, cider, homemade pies, fruit jams and honey, fall produce, and pumpkins for sale. 15621 Braddock Road, Centreville, Va. 703-830-4121, [www.coxfarms.com](http://www.coxfarms.com).

#### Homestead Farm

Pick-your-own pumpkins and apples daily, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and enjoy hayrides on Fridays and weekends in October. Apples, Indian corn, corn stalks and other fall harvest items available for sale. Admission is free! 15600 Sugarland Road, Poolesville, Md. 301-977-3761, [www.homestead-farm.net](http://www.homestead-farm.net).

#### Summers Farm

This year's 10-acre cornfield maze is dedicated to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, and on Oct. 17, the farm will hold "pig

races for charity" to raise money for St. Jude Hospital. The farm is open daily through Nov. 1, and admission includes the bunny train, corn crib sand box, hayrides, giant slides, rope maze, hayloft jumping, goat mountain, pony rides and other fun activities. \$9/ages 3 and older on weekends; \$6/ages 3 and older on weekdays; free/ages 2 and under. 5614 Butterfly Lane, Frederick, Md. 301-620-9316, [www.summersfarm.com](http://www.summersfarm.com).

#### Autumn Market Fair

Travel back to the 18th century at Claude Moore Colonial Farm, Oct. 17 and 18, 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Sample local apples, hearty breads, and savory meat pies. Activities include candle dipping, wood working, fortune telling by a gypsy, an artisan market and farm stand, and more. \$3/adults; \$2/children, ages 3-12, and senior citizens. 6310 Georgetown Pike, McLean, Va. 703-442-7557, [www.1771.org](http://www.1771.org).

#### Higher Achievement Needs Tutors/Aides

Higher Achievement is a year-round academic enrichment program for middle school students whose mission is to develop skills, behaviors and attitudes in motivated and underserved children to improve their grades, test scores, attendance and opportunities – resulting in acceptance to college preparatory high schools. Both mentoring and study hall aide opportunities are available at five different locations in the DC Metro area— Capitol Hill, Petworth, Adams Morgan, Benning Road and Alexandria, Va. To sign up now, visit [www.higherachievement.org](http://www.higherachievement.org) and complete an application. Alternatively, you may call Matt Thornton at 202-375-7733 or e-mail [volunteer@higherachievement.org](mailto:volunteer@higherachievement.org)

*Have a listing for the Kids & Family Notebook? E-mail [kidsnotebook@hillrag.com](mailto:kidsnotebook@hillrag.com) by the 20th of the month prior to publication. Submissions may be edited. Publication not guaranteed.*







9th Annual Capitol Hill  
**Renovator's House Tour**  
 Saturday Oct. 17th 10:00am-4:00pm

For house information and tickets (\$25) visit: [www.renovatorshousetour.org](http://www.renovatorshousetour.org)

Tickets also available at:

Frager's Paint Store	1115 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE
Hill's Kitchen	713 D Street, SE
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# Three Great Programs, One Amazing School

Tyler Elementary turns the corner toward a bright future

BY CATHERINE JOUET

John Tyler Elementary, a public school at 9th and G streets, SE on Capitol Hill, is a “shining example” of what is working well for public schools in DC, according to DCPS Chancellor Michelle Rhee. The school’s success can be attributed to its leadership and the work of its administration, teachers, students and a very committed group of parents. The foundation of the school is its three-pillared program –Arts Integration, Spanish Immersion, and Autism/special needs. It’s a remarkable place – full of life, hope, and energy.

The momentum at Tyler began in 2004 when new principal, Michele Pierre Farid worked with community partners to facilitate improvements to the physical structure, including new windows and a new library. The library was completely renovated in 2007 by the School Library Project, an initiative of the Capitol Hill Community Foundation to completely renovate eight public school libraries. This successful project was born out of a grassroots coalition of PTA Presidents, school leaders, and community activists. Tyler’s library has a collection of thousands of brand new books donated by the Toyota Corporation.

The most recent improvements at Tyler, however, can be attributed to a first-rate principal hired in the summer of 2008. Engaged, pragmatic, and hopeful, Terry Dade was recruited from among the New Leaders for New Schools candidates put forth by Chancellor Rhee. Mr. Dade has a vision for Tyler and actively plans for its future by providing his staff with professional development opportunities and partnerships and by creating new programs and possibilities for this school.

“We’ve been thrilled with Mr. Dade’s excellent and energetic leadership,” said Ann Person and Hector Pop, parents of a preschooler in the Spanish Immersion Program. “Tyler is definitely on a positive trajectory and we’re happy to be part of it.”

It helps that Principal Dade has good material to work with — Tyler’s three unique programs are led by a cadre of extremely committed teachers and professionals. The Spanish Immersion program, started in 2005, was the first true immersion program in DCPS—students in Preschool, Pre-K and Kindergarten are taught in Spanish for 90% of their day; art, music and PE are taught in English. The success of this program has a lot to do with the mutual engagement among parents, DCPS, and Tyler faculty. While mastering a second language,



Principal Terry Dade starts students off on a race during Tyler Field Day (Spring 2009)

these students are also taught to read and write in English. Thoughtful instruction provides opportunities to learn math and science concepts in the target language as well. The program hires teachers from Spain, Puerto Rico, countries in Central America, and across the USA.

Tyler has been recognized as having one of the best programs for students with autism in the city. Students the city-wide Special Education program are challenged to apply their skills in the classroom and to develop their full potential to succeed in an academic environment, as well as in daily life at home and in the community. In November, the Washington DC Chapter of AUTISM SPEAKS hosted its annual Walk Now For Autism fundraiser and awareness event. Tyler Elementary’s team the “Tyler Tigers” was 20 members strong! The team consisted of students, parents, teachers and Tyler principal Terry Dade and his family. On April 25th, the school hosted its first Autism Awareness event in celebration of National Autism Awareness month. The evening provided an opportunity for teachers and parents of students in the program

to share facts and personal stories about teaching and living with students with Autism. Turning the Page, one of the school’s community partners, presented each family with the book “It’s Okay to be Different” by Todd Parr, a simple, playful celebration of diversity.

## New Programs Funded by Active Outreach

Principal Dade spearheaded Tyler’s pursuit of funding to convert its traditional curriculum to an Arts Integration program. This July, Tyler became one of 13 DC Schools to receive the Catalyst grant (Arts Integration, STEM (Science, Technology, and Mathematics), and World Cultures).

In an Arts Integration themed school, the arts -- movement, dance, visual arts, and music -- are woven into instruction in all subjects. Among the goals of Arts Integration are increased student engagement, higher student achievement, and building a sense of community in the classroom as students encourage each other to take risks in artistic expression and communication. Tyler will collaborate with Young Playwrights Theater and Turn-





Tyler Kindergarteners painting in the classroom.

ing the Page (a nonprofit organization that supports schools in northeast and southeast Washington with literacy and photography programs), to mount a series of performances and exhibitions throughout the year.

When funding from DCPS has proven inadequate, Mr. Dade, parents, and teachers have written grants for equipment, supplies, projects, and materials. Their success has been outstanding -- over \$250,000 in grant money to date. Most recently Tyler parents applied for, and were awarded, a health and wellness grant from the General Mills Foundation in the amount of \$17,000 for an after-school "Keep Moving" program of yoga and fitness. In the pipeline are partnerships with local farm-to-school networks which will incorporate locally grown produce into the lunch program; cross-curriculum training to incorporate the Spanish language program into the Arts Integration classrooms; and a permanent fundraising committee to pursue ongoing in-kind donations and monetary contributions from foundations, local businesses, and other organizations.

Parents and families have shown their long-term commitment to the school with hundreds of hours of volunteer effort. The PTA has grown from less than a handful of members to at least thirty very active families who work nights and weekends for their children's school. Incoming PTA president, Shameka Stewart has plans to launch an onsite family resource center. Parent Steve Sweeney commented that his great ambition for the school and PTA was to continue to build on the solid sense of community that has been created.

Currently, Tyler holds regular PTA meetings the first Thursday of each month and encourages family involvement through Community Nights with Turning the Page (book readings, parent workshops, book giveaways, and dinner), volunteer work days, and movie nights. This past year the PTA hosted several "firsts": an Autism Awareness

event, an Enrollment Day Picnic, and The Art Within Us -- an evening celebration with a display of student artwork and a silent auction fundraiser.

Tyler enjoys relationships with other groups which benefit the entire school community. Its partnership with DC based law firm Akin Gump offers many benefits to the school, including an after-school tutoring program, meals for staff and parent meetings, and charter bus transportation for field trips. Tyler also partners

with Sports4kids, Arthur Ashe Tennis, Girl Scouts of America, Turning the Page, Center for Inspired Teaching, and the Department of Defense, Little Lights, and the DC Arts and Humanities Collaborative.


And construction is finally beginning on Tyler's Outdoor Classroom. The Outdoor Classroom is a parent initiative to create approximately 13,000 square feet of central green space and perimeter plantings to enhance opportunities for outdoor play and fresh air on a daily basis. The outdoor urban classroom will provide open green space, age-appropriate and ADA accessible play equipment, and a gathering place where lessons can be conducted.

But while the Tyler school community continues to be empowered by past successes and current leadership, its ultimate rewards are the smart, thoughtful, prepared, and engaged children it nurtures, who will draw on the Tyler turnaround for the rest of their lives. The popularity of Tyler's programs has resulted in DCPS allocating two new 3 year old classrooms at Tyler this year for a total of four preschool classrooms. And the Tyler community was thrilled to welcome 69 new families to Tyler this fall.

Erika Lehman, the mother of a rising second grader, speaks for many of the parents when she says, "Tyler is always working to raise its programs to the next level. There is no end to the efforts to make Tyler "the" choice school in DC. As a parent at Tyler, I always feel welcome to contribute to this ongoing push for success."

Looking forward to change and continued growth in the coming school year 2009-2010, Principal Terry Dade sums it up in his email signature.... "Three Great Programs, One Amazing School."

*Catherine Jouet has been a Tyler parent for 3 years. She has two kids and sells real estate "in her spare time." ★*




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